

# Storyland



## APRIL CURRICULUM

Our theme for the month of April is "Springtime and Weather"! Along with the arrival of spring comes unpredictable weather, the perfect time for our students to learn the concept of the changing weather and seasons. We will discuss Earth Day and the importance of recycling. We will also be focusing on learning the color yellow, the number 9, as well as continuing with our weekly themes (letters X, Y, and Z).



## SPRING AND GRADUATION PICTURE DAY

Graduating students who will be moving on to TK or Kindergarten in the fall will have their graduation pictures taken on Tuesday, April 14th beginning at 9:00am.

Each child will be wearing a cap and gown for these pictures. Girls will wear maroon and boys will wear white. It is suggested that boys wear a plain, light colored shirt that day, as patterns or graphics will show through their white gown. We will be providing a cap and gown for students to wear for these portraits



## EASTER EGG HUNT

Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> will be our Easter Egg Hunt.

Each class will celebrate by having a special snack in their classroom and will also be participating in an Easter Egg Hunt. If you would like to donate items to our Easter Egg Hunt, please check your email for the digital sign-up sheet through Sign-Up Genius!

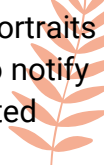
Please note that all donated items must be peanut/ tree nut-free. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated!

## SPRING AND GRADUATION PICTURE DAY

If your student does not normally attend school on Tuesday's, they will take their graduation portrait on Wednesday, April 15th.

Spring portraits will be taken on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 am, for all other children in the Little Stars, Little Monkeys, and Little Owls classes, along with any students in the Bay and Sunshine Room who will remain at Storyland next school year. If your student does not normally attend school on Wednesdays, they will be able to take their portrait on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> instead.

Please note that graduation and spring portraits are optional. We will send out an email to notify you once order forms have been distributed to your child's file folder for pick-up.



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## ALPHABET-A-THON

The week of April 20th-30th, our school will hold an Alphabet Fundraiser, where we will be challenging our students to recognize and name all the letters of the alphabet! This event will not only encourage our students to learn all of their letters but also create a fun way to raise money for Storyland.

Unlike many fundraisers, all of the funds raised from the Alphabet Fundraiser will go directly to Storyland. Our goal is to raise \$1500 to assist us in purchasing new outdoor activities/equipment and classroom items from our teacher's wish lists.

## ALPHABET-A-THON

Check your child's file folder for a pledge form and please invite your family and friends to participate! You will have the option to either make a per-letter donation or a flat donation. Just fill out the pledge form with the amount you would like to pledge and we will get back to you following the event with the total amount owed.

Please turn in your completed pledge forms on or before Friday, April 17th. Thank you for your support in this event, we appreciate your help!

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

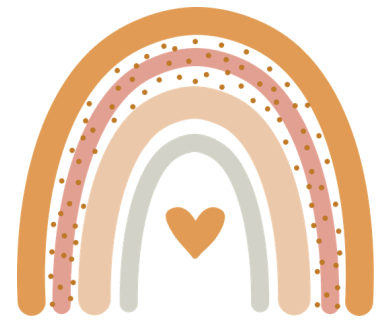
Bella Jeffreys	April 4
Alexander Lazarakis	April 5
Finley Phan	April 7
Maya Vasquez	April 10
Shaurya Dewan	April 29
Madeline Johnston	April 30

## UPCOMING DATES

- Easter Egg Hunt- Thursday, April 2nd
- Storyland closed Monday, April 6th
- Graduation Pictures - April 14
- Spring Pictures - April 15
- Alphabet-a-thon - April 20th-30th
- Teacher Appreciation Week - May 4-8
- Muffins for Moms- Friday, May 8th (during drop off hours 7-9 AM)
- Open House - Friday, May 15th
- Donuts for Dads - Friday, May 22nd (during drop off hours 7-9AM)
- Storyland will be closed on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day
- Graduation - Wednesday, May 27th
- Last Day of the School Year - Friday, May 29th



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## Parent Center Promoting Independence

While 2 to 4-year-olds still need plenty of parental help, preschool teachers agree that children are typically able to do more than many of us think. Here's how you can encourage them:

1. Expect more. Most people have a way of living up (or down) to expectations – preschoolers included. Raise the bar and your child will probably stretch to meet it.
2. Resist doing for her what she can do herself. While it may be quicker and easier to do it yourself, it won't help to make your child more self-sufficient.
3. Don't redo what they've done. If your child makes their bed, resist the urge to smooth the blankets. If they dress themselves in stripes and polka dots, compliment their "eclectic" style. Unless absolutely necessary, don't fix what your child accomplishes, it may discourage them.
4. Let them solve simple problems. If you see your child trying to assemble a toy or get a book from a shelf that they can reach if they stands on a stepstool, pause before racing over to help.
5. Assign a chore. Putting your preschooler in charge of a regular, simple task will build their confidence and sense of competency. A child who is entrusted to water the plants or empty the clothes dryer is likely to believe they can also get dressed by themselves or pour their own cereal. Just be sure the chore you assign is manageable and that it's real work, not busywork, since even preschoolers know the difference. The goal is to make your child feel like a capable, contributing member of the family.
6. Praise is key. Especially if your child is not in a cooperative phase, try to catch them being good. Children repeat behaviors that get attention.
7. Develop predictable routines. Children cooperate in school because they know what's expected of them. While it would be impractical to have the same level of structure at home, the more consistent you are, the more cooperative your child is likely to be.
8. Lighten up. If your child refuses to do something, try turning it into a game. Humor and games are two great tools that parents sometimes forget about in the heat of the moment.

9. Warn of transitions. If your child pitches a fit whenever you announce it's time to switch gears –whether that means shutting off the TV, stopping play to come eat, or leaving a friend's house – it could be that you're not giving enough advance notice. Give a specific time or set a timer so they know when the time is up.

10. Use sticker charts and rewards judiciously. Reserve rewards for finite endeavors, such as potty training, but avoid offering them for everyday things, such as dressing themselves or brushing their teeth.

11. Give structured choices. If, for example, your 3-year-old refuses to sit at the dinner table, you might offer the choice of sitting and getting dessert – or not sitting and missing out on a treat. Just be sure, if you want your child to choose option A, that option B is less attractive.

12. Encourage teamwork. If your child is fighting over a toy with another child, set a timer for five minutes. Tell one child he can have the toy until he hears the timer, and then it will be the other child's turn.

13. Let your child work out minor squabbles. Instead of swooping in to settle disputes, stand back and let them work it out (unless they're hitting each other). You won't always be there to rescue your child.

14. Redirect. If your preschooler is jumping on the couch or grabbing for their big sister's dolls, distract them by asking if they would like to draw a picture or read a short story together.

15. Involve your child in righting her wrongs. If you find them coloring on the walls, have them help wash it off. If they knock over a playmate's block tower, ask them to help rebuild it.

16. Don't delay discipline. If you must reprimand your child, do so when you see them misbehaving. If you wait to reprimand "later" or when "we get home" your child may forget the incident.